MEET THE PLAYERS OF WWI
• The large, old, crumbling empire: “sick man”
• Mediocre military
• An empire whose best days were a century or two past
• Biggest Problem: Ethnic Tensions

AUSTRIA – HUNGARY: THE OLD, SICK ONE
FRANCE:
THE JITTERY ONE

- Only Republic
- Up until 1815 enjoyed hegemony in Europe
- Relatively large, wealthy, and powerful
- Close clashes with Germany
GERMANY: THE FRONTRUNNER

- Unified in 1871
- Most Industrialized
- Most Feared Army
- Cultural Clashes and Rivalry with Russia and France
- Fairly autocratic rule by Kaiser Wilhelm II
GREAT BRITAIN: THE DEPENDABLE ONE

- Greatest Naval Power
- Greatest Empire
- Fairly Good Relations with All Nations
- Most Stable Government
- Relatively Small Population
- Industrialized, but eclipsed by Germany
ITALY: THE NEW GUY

- Newcomer (Unification in 1860s)
- Relatively poor and underdeveloped compared to other major powers
- Relative loser in imperialist land-grab
- Looking for Legitimacy (**they want to prove themselves to the world**)
Europe’s Slow Giant

Enormous Population and Natural Resources

Ethnic tensions with Germany

Territorial tensions with Austria-Hungary

Fearful of Revolution → It happens in 1917

The monarchy is abolished.

Vladimir Lenin becomes the 1st premier (leader) of the USSR (Soviet Union)